

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Status

Claims 1-4, 6-15, 17-25, 27, 28, 32 and 33 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-4, 6, 11, 12 and 32 are allowed.

Claims 7-10, 18-20, 23-25, 27, 28 and 33 are rejected.

Claims 13-15, 17, 21 and 22 are objected to.

Claims 7-10, 13, 18-20, 23-25, 27 and 33 are herein amended.

Claim 28 is herein canceled without prejudice.

Claim Objections

Claims 7, 10, 13-15, 17-22, 24, 25, 27 and 33 are objected to as containing minor drafting errors.

Claims 7, 10, 13, 18-20, 24, 25, 27 and 33 have been amended to correct these errors.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 7 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps. In particular, claims 7 and 18 recite steps for a “third plurality of rays” when steps for a “second plurality of rays” were not previously recited.

Claims 7 and 18 have been amended to replace each recitation of the "third plurality of rays" with a "second plurality of rays".

Claims 8 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps. In particular, claims 8 and 19 recite steps for a "fourth plurality of rays" when steps for a "second and third plurality of rays" were not previously recited.

Claims 8 and 19 have been amended to replace each recitation of the "fourth plurality of rays" with a "second plurality of rays".

Claims 9 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps. In particular, claims 9 and 20 recite steps for a "fifth plurality of rays" when steps for a "second, third and fourth plurality of rays" were not previously recited.

Claims 9 and 20 have been amended to replace each recitation of the "fifth plurality of rays" with a "second plurality of rays".

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps. In particular, claim 10 recites steps for a "sixth plurality of rays" when steps for a "second, third, fourth and fifth plurality of rays" were not previously recited.

Claim 10 has been amended to replace each recitation of the "sixth plurality of rays" with a "second plurality of rays".

Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Claim 28 has been canceled.

Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In particular, the Examiner indicated that the claim is not clear as to what the alternatives are.

Claim 33 has been amended to clearly identify the alternatives recited therein.

Claim 33 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps. In particular, claim 33 recites steps for a "second sphere-based response" when steps for a "first sphere-based response" were not previously recited.

Claim 33 has been amended replace each recitation of the "first and second sphere-based responses" with a "sphere-based response".

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112 are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 23-25, 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,452,367 (Bick) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,470,092 (Li).

Claim 23 has been amended to include the limitations of original claim 5 and is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons stated in the Allowable Subject Matter section of the instant Office Action with regard to claim 1.

Claims 24, 25 and 27 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above for claim 23, from which they depend.

Claim 28 has been canceled.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claims as herein presented are allowable over the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination. The Examiner's early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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